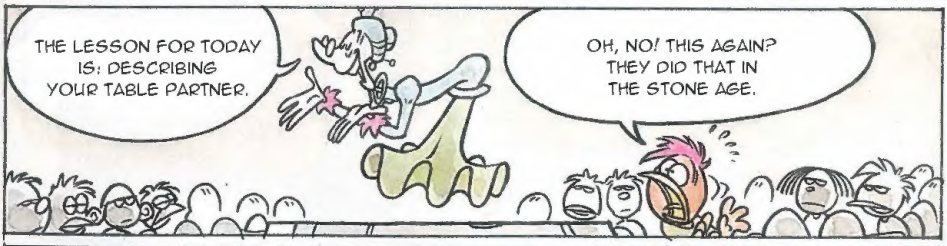
TRIP'S STRIP

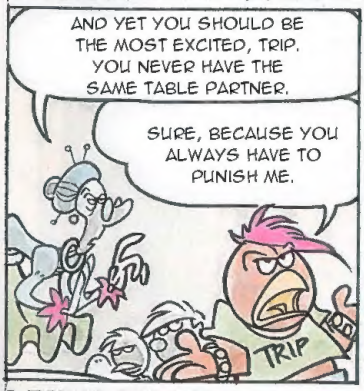
An amoeba on the neck

THE TWENTY-THIRD CENTURY. TECHNOSCHOOL. TRIP IS IN TROUBLE, AS USUAL.

AAAH! CALL AN AMBULANCE! I CAN'T OPEN MY HANDS ANYMORE! MY VISION IS GOING BLURRY AND ...
THERE'S NO POINT IN INSISTING, TRIP. YOU'LL DO THE ASSIGNMENT IN CLASS, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

MY FATHER ALWAYS SAYS THAT I'M NOT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, MISS FOSTER.
I UNDERSTAND. THAT'S WHY YOU'LL HAVE TO STAND OUT. IN A DECENT WAY, OF COURSE.




AND YET YOU SHOULD BE THE MOST EXCITED, TRIP. YOU NEVER HAVE THE SAME TABLE PARTNER.
SURE, BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO PUNISH ME.
TRIP

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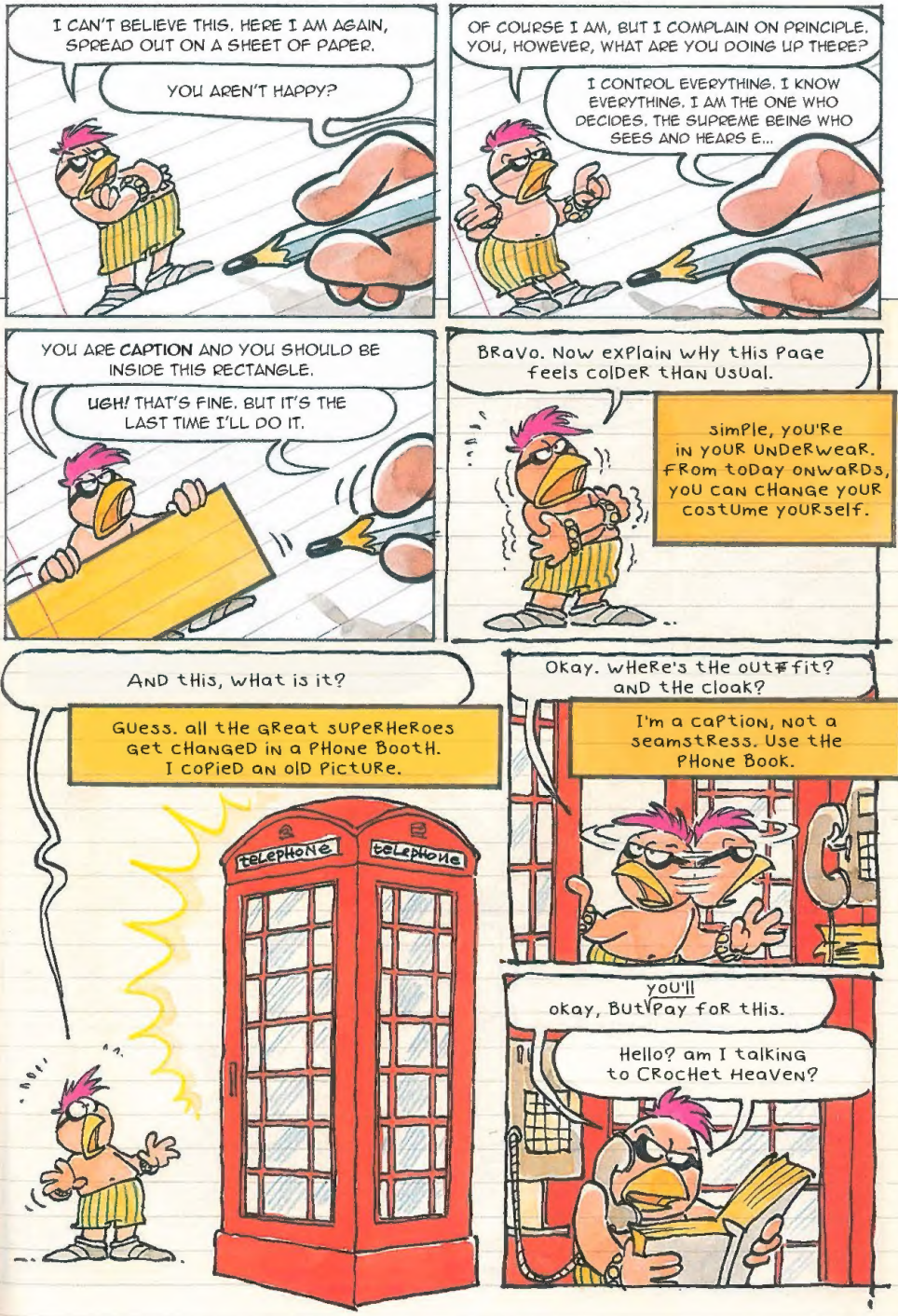
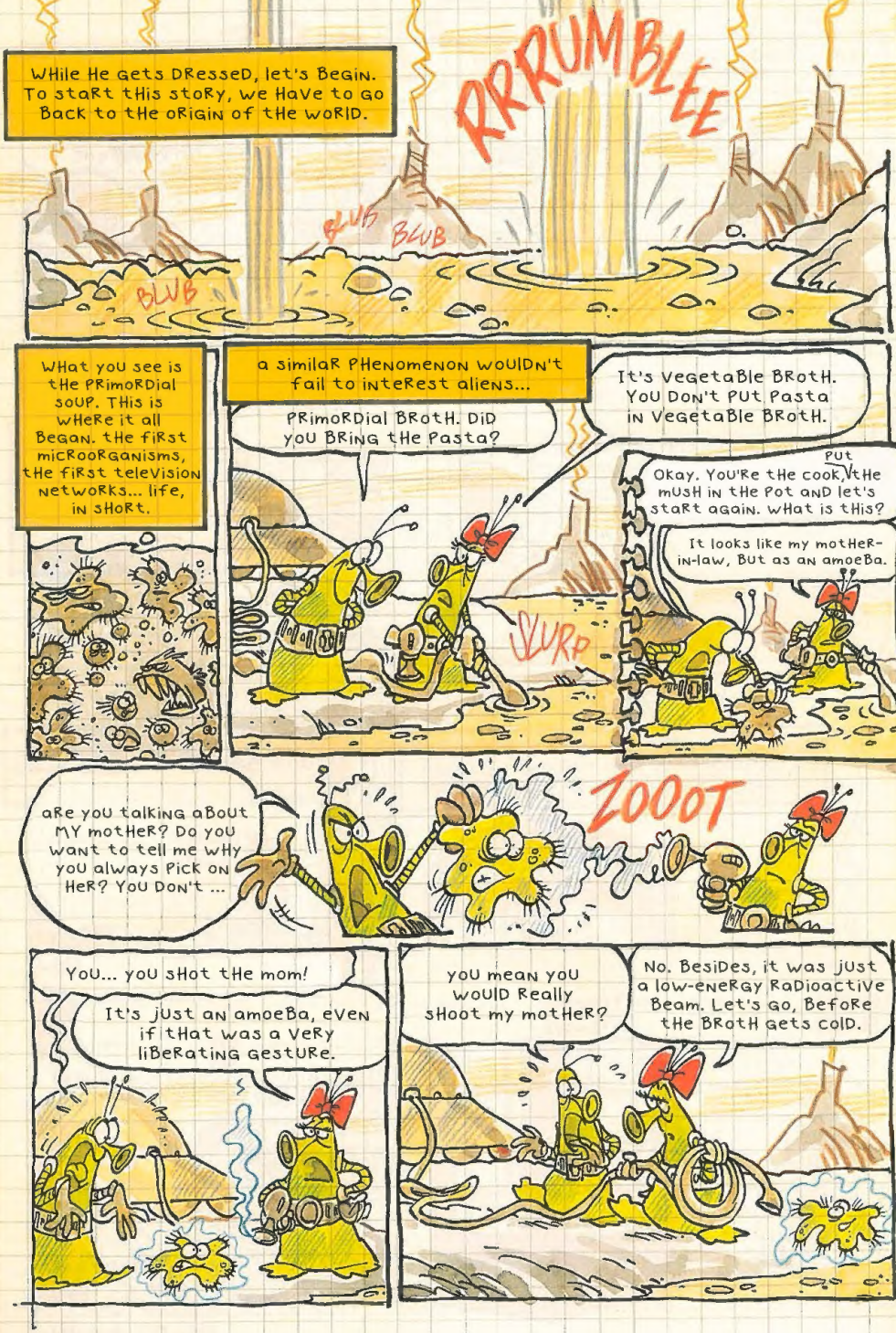
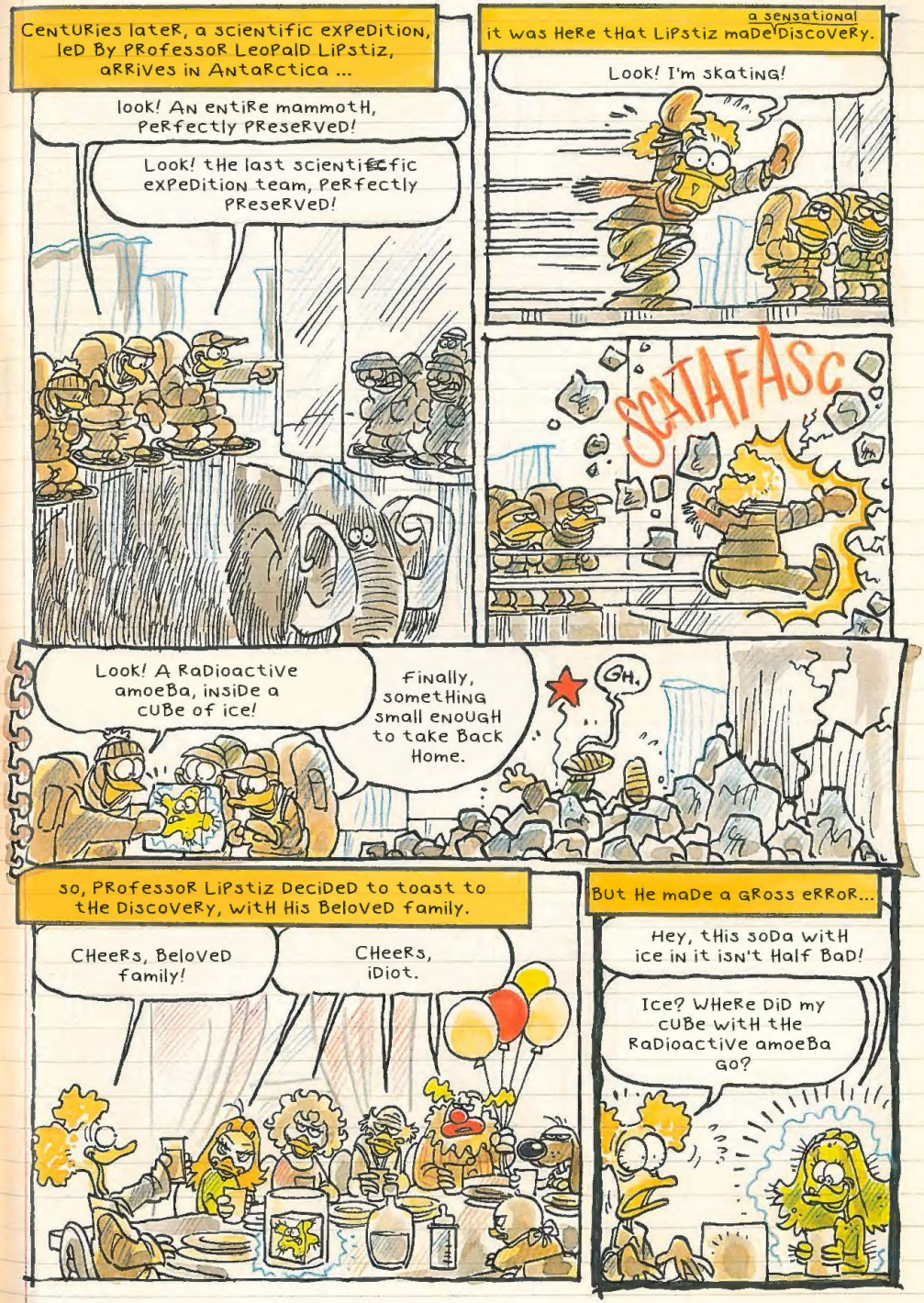
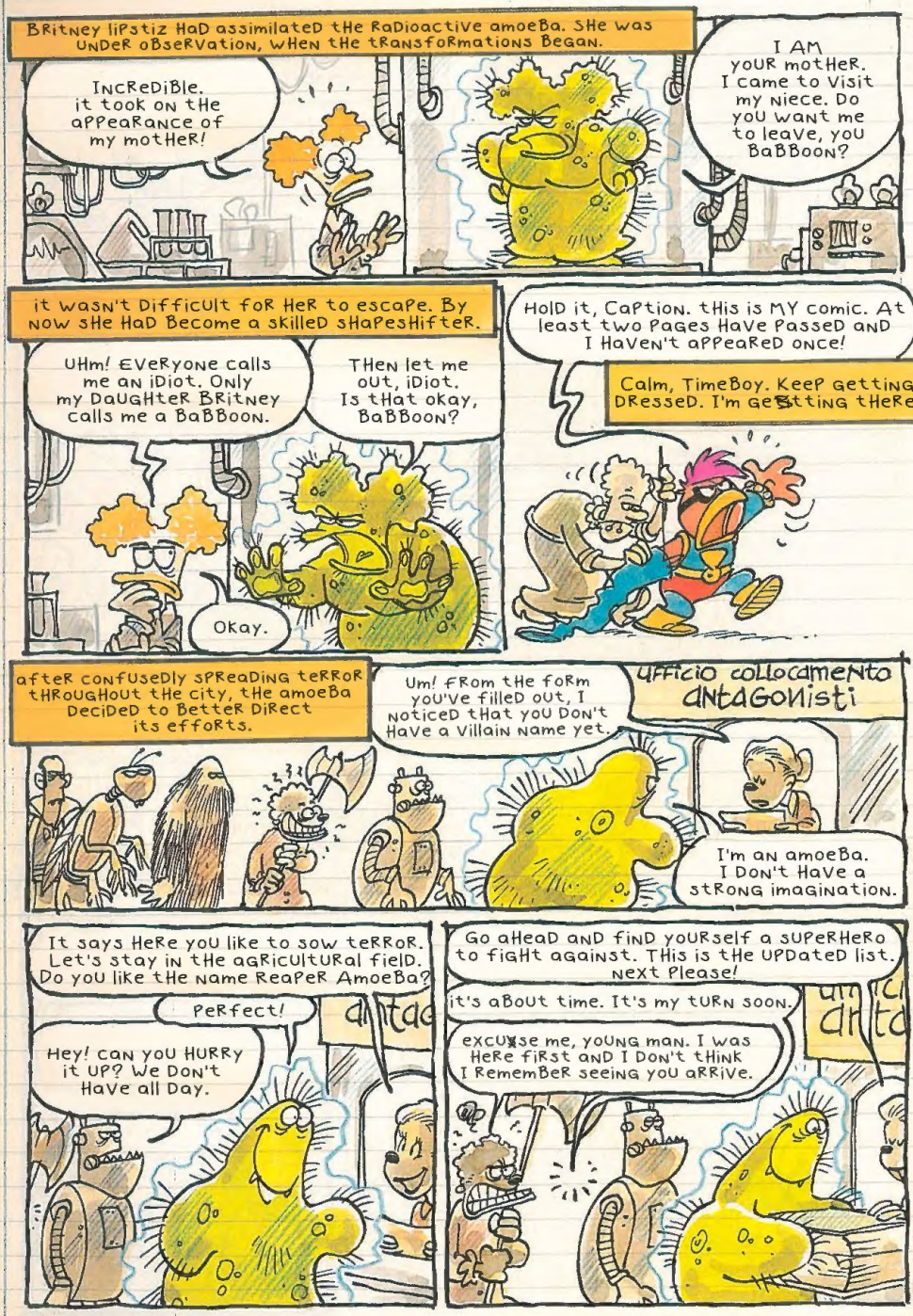

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. HERE I AM AGAIN, SPREAD OUT ON A SHEET OF PAPER.
YOU AREN'T HAPPY?
OF COURSE I AM, BUT I COMPLAIN ON PRINCIPLE. YOU, HOWEVER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE?
I CONTROL EVERYTHING. I KNOW EVERYTHING. I AM THE ONE WHO DECIDES. THE SUPREME BEING WHO SEES AND HEARS E...
YOU ARE CAPTION AND YOU SHOULD BE INSIDE THIS RECTANGLE.
UGH! THAT'S FINE. BUT IT'S THE LAST TIME I'LL DO IT.
BRAVO. NOW EXPLAIN WHY THIS PAGE FEELS COLDER THAN USUAL.
SIMPLE, YOU'RE IN YOUR UNDERWEAR. FROM TODAY ONWARDS, YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR COSTUME YOURSELF.
AND THIS, WHAT IS IT?
GUESS. ALL THE GREAT SUPERHEROES GET CHANGED IN A PHONE BOOTH. I COPIED AN OLD PICTURE.
TELEPHONE
TELEPHONE
OKAY. WHERE'S THE OUTFIT? AND THE CLOAK?
I'M A CAPTION, NOT A SEAMSTRESS. USE THE PHONE BOOK.
OKAY, BUT YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS.
HELLO? AM I TALKING TO CROCHET HEAVEN?


While he gets dressed, let's begin. To start this story, we have to go back to the origin of the world.
RRRUMBLEE
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
What you see is the primordial soup. This is where it all began. The first microorganisms, the first television networks... life, in short.
a similar phenomenon wouldn't fail to interest aliens...
primordial broth. Did you bring the pasta?
It's vegetable broth. You don't put pasta in vegetable broth.
SLURP
Okay. You're the cook, put the mush in the pot and let's start again. What is this?
It looks like my mother-in-law, but as an amoeba.
Are you talking about my mother? Do you want to tell me why you always pick on her? You don't ...
ZOOOT
You... you shot the mom!
It's just an amoeba, even if that was a very liberating gesture.
you mean you would really shoot my mother?
No. Besides, it was just a low-energy radioactive beam. Let's go, before the broth gets cold.


Centuries later, a scientific expedition, led by Professor Leopald Lipstiz, arrives in Antarctica ...
look! An entire mammoth, perfectly preserved!
Look! the last scientific expedition team, perfectly preserved!
it was here that Lipstiz made a sensational discovery.
Look! I'm skating!
SCATAFASC
Look! A radioactive amoeba, inside a cube of ice!
Finally, something small enough to take back home.
GH.
so, Professor Lipstiz decided to toast to the discovery, with his beloved family.
Cheers, beloved family!
Cheers, idiot.
But he made a gross error...
Hey, this soda with ice in it isn't half bad!
Ice? Where did my cube with the radioactive amoeba go?

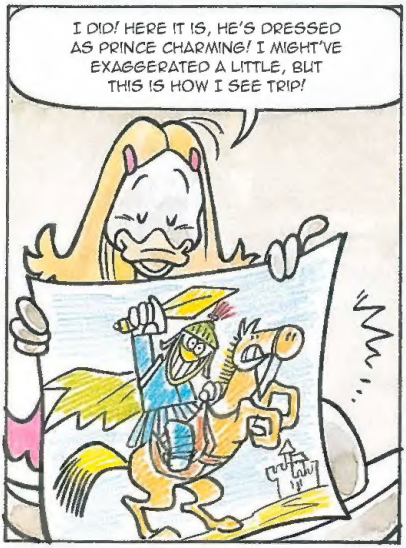

BRitney liPstiz HaD assimilateD tHe RaDioactive amoeBa. SHe was UnDeR oBseRVation, WHEN tHe tRansFoRMations BeGan.
INCREDIBLE. it took on tHe aPPeaRance of my motHeR!
I AM YOUR MOTHER. I came to visit my niece. Do you want me to leave, you BaBBoon?
it wasn't DifficUlt foR HeR to escaPe. By now sHe HaD Become a skilleD sHaPesHifteR.
UHm! EVERYONE calls me an iDiot. Only my DaUGHteR BRitney calls me a BaBBoon.
THEN let me out, iDiot. Is tHat okay, BaBBoon?
Okay.
HOLD it, CaPtion. tHis is MY comic. At least two Pages HaVe PassED anD I HaVen't aPPeaRED once!
Calm, TimeBoy. KeeP getting DRessED. I'm geTTing tHeRe.
afteR conFuseDly sPReaDing teRRoR tHROUGHOUt tHE city, tHE amoeBa DeciDED to BetteR DiRect its efforts.
Um! FROM tHE foRm YOU'VE filleD out, I NOTICED tHat YOU DON'T HAVE a VillaIN name yet.
Ufficio collocamento ANTAGONISTI
I'm an amoeBa. I DON'T HAVE a stRONG imagination.
It says HeRe YOU like to sow teRRoR. Let's stay in tHe aGRiCULTURal fieLD. Do YOU like tHE name ReaPeR AmoeBa?
PERFECT!
Hey! CAN YOU HURRY it UP? We DON'T HAVE all Day.
Go aHeaD anD finD YOURself a SUPERHERO to fiGHt aGAINST. THis is tHE UPDateD list. NEXT Please!
it's aBOUt time. It's my tURN SOON.
excUSe me, YOUNG man. I was HeRe fiRst anD I DON'T tHINK I RememBeR seeING YOU aRRiVe.

THat's How tHe ReaPeR AmoeBa set HeR siGHts on yoU, foR tHe VeRy fiRst time ...
SupermegaGigaman
ultraHyperMegaloMan
gigi
TiMeboy
of cOURse yoU DiDN't see me aRRiVe, I'm tHe InVisiBle Man.
OH, yeaH? tHen DISAPPEAR!
(looKeD BetteR in)
tHe fact is, in Reality you tHe PHotos, aND it only conVinceD HeR of one tHing ...
I've fallen in love witH TimeBoy!
aND so, UsinG HeR DaRk PoweRs, sHe BewitcHeD yoU to Become a seRVant of tHe amoeBa.
HONEY, I'm Home!
Time out! StoP eVeRytHinG, CaPtion!
Say wHat yoU HaVe to say. I can't fReeze tHe scene foR long.
FiRst of all, tHat is NOT me!
CoRRect. We're on PaGe siX aND you're still not finisHeD GettinG DRessed. I HaD to Use a stUNt DouBle.
SecOND, tHat's an amoeBa. How Has it enCHanteD me? By BattinG its eyelasHes?
It's PossiBle. It Has seVeRal of tHem, scatteReD aROUND its BoDy.
GRRR! Stay calm. Let me Go Back a looONG way in time, so I can fix tHis.
Got it. HolD on tiGHt!
Hello, DeaR. Come qUickly, I maDe tHat BacteRia flan yoU like so mUCH!

several thousand years earlier ...
Okay, you're the cook. Put the mush in the pot and let's start again. What is this?
It looks like my mother-in-law, but as am amo...
HALT!
These amoebas are protected, and the primordial soup is an important part of the earth's ecosystem. You need to go away.
A policeman! Didn't you say the planet was uninhabited?
You were the one who wanted to land here. There's a fast food place two light-years away.
We would never have landed if your mother hadn't burnt dinner!
Do you want to explain why you're always picking on her? eh? eh?
There's no need to bow to my genius, Caption. You can just take me home now.
several centuries later ...
Oh, Honey!
Aaah! Britney Lipstiz!
I understand, but what's the difference?
What happened? Didn't I undo all this?
The paths of history often converge. Besides, what are you complaining about? This is Britney, not a disgusting amoeba!
PCIV
PCIV
PCIV
PCIV

HE! HE! HE!
YOU'VE BEEN GIGGLING FOR THE PAST HOUR, TRIP. I'M REALLY CURIOUS TO SEE YOUR ASSIGNMENT.

IN THE MEANTIME, LET'S SEE THE WORK OF YOUR TABLE PARTNER, BRITNEY LIPSTIZ. I HEAR SHE DREW A PORTRAIT OF YOU.
PFFF...


I DID! HERE IT IS, HE'S DRESSED AS PRINCE CHARMING! I MIGHT'VE EXAGGERATED A LITTLE, BUT THIS IS HOW I SEE TRIP!

WONDERFUL, BRITNEY. LET'S SEE IF TRIP IS DESERVING OF SUCH ADMIRATION. TRIP?
UHM! MISS FOSTER... I... I...
TRIP!

I DIDN'T MAKE ANYTHING!
AS I EXPECTED. YOU HAD ME FOOLED WITH YOUR SCRIBBLING. VERY BAD BEHAVIOR ON YOUR PART.

REMIND ME TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOUR FATHER, ONE OF THESE DAYS.
YES, MISS FOSTER.

YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK? SOMETIMES, REALITY IS MORE ABSURD THAN FANTASY!
Fine